

very feebly developed enjoyment of gossip, and his lack of interest in debate for debate's sake, he would, ever, have found it really congenial may well be doubted

Those who take hardest to what they feel its elaborately organised time-wasting, are the men who come there with the notion that they are going to be able to cany on, in a larger sphere, the usefulness and the general methods of their experience as members of local governing bodies. Such men, used, by reasonable compromise and mutual give-and-take, to getting things done find it difficult to adjust themselves to a scene drearily governed by the formula "The duty of an Opposition is to oppose " When they go upstairs, to committees, hope, already defeated so far as the Chamber itself is concerned, springs up anew, only to be, there, even more bitterly disappointed. All is ingenuity and obstruction. It bores them.

It undoubtedly bored him. If endurable so long as he could, still, spend his mornings in Grosvenor Road, on his own work, it became unendurable on the days—and they were many—on which he had to be at the House at eleven for a Committee, and was kept at it until midnight or later. His two periods in opposition—1922-23, and 1924-29—were strenuous years. The Labour Party was fighting every inch of the ground, its discipline was rigorously exercised, on the conscientious, members, even the most distinguished, were expected to be there. The time available for other work was small indeed. And yet since, on both

occasions, and notably in the longer second period, the Opposition was small, what could be accomplished, inside the walls of Westminster was not great. The work of conversion, of preparing the electorate to take advantage of their opportunity for peaceably bringing about a change, was done more effectively by the inaction of the Government than by anything that could be accomplished by an Opposition. Or so it might well seem to the practical man. It is